

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority of European Patent Application No. 03076614.1 filed 26 May 2003.

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention--

On page 1, above line 13, insert--Background of the Invention--

On page 2, above line 13, insert--Summary of the Invention--

On page 6, above line 22, insert--Brief Description of the Drawings--

Paragraph starting on line 22 of page 6, and ending on line 7 of page 7, has been amended as follows:

-- The invention will now be illustrated by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein

FIG. 1a shows a perspective view of a 6" 3-blade percussion drill bit in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 1b shows a top view of the bit face of the percussion drill bit shown in FIG. 1a;

FIG. 2a shows a perspective view of a 6" 4-blade percussion drill bit in another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2b shows a top view of the bit face of the percussion drill bit shown in FIG. 2a;

FIG. 3 shows a top view of an 8" bit face according to still another embodiment of the invention, having 8 blades;

FIG. 4 shows a schematic cross section of the cutter arrangement; and

FIG. 5 schematically shows different shear cutters having pre-cut flat impact surfaces.--

On page 7, above line 8, insert--Detailed Description of the Invention--

Paragraph starting on line 10 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

-- A perspective view of a 3-blade percussion drill bit in accordance with an embodiment of the invention is shown in FIG. 1a. The drill bit comprises a shank 1 stretching longitudinally about a central longitudinal axis of the drill bit, which shank can be especially adapted to fit inside a drill string. The rearward end of the shank is connected to a striking surface 2 to receive impacts from a percussive hammer, preferably a reciprocative piston hammer (not shown). The forward end of the shank is connected to a drilling head 3. The shank 1 is provided with a plurality of splines 4, running essentially longitudinally along the shank 1. The splines 4 serve to rotationally couple the drill string and the shank 1, so that the drill bit is operable by applying both axial percussive motion and rotary motion about the central longitudinal axis.--

On page 14, above line 1, insert: --We claim:--